IN THE SPECIFICATION

Following is a marked-up version of each amended paragraph of the subject patent application. The Examiner is requested to delete the indicated paragraph and replace it with the amended paragraph. The location for each of the deleted and replaced paragraphs is also indicated.

The paragraph beginning on page 1, line 14, and ending on page 1, line 19 should be replaced with the following.

The flow of data in a network is accomplished by transmitting data from one network node to another node until the data arrives at the destination node. Various data protocols are used for transmitting data in the network, including TCP/IP ~~TCP/IP~~. HTTP and UDP. The protocol selected for a data transfer is based on the type of network, the network topology, the data type and other factors.

The paragraph beginning on page 2, line 25, and ending on page 3, line 13 should be replaced with the following.

The contents of each destination address entry in the multicast linear list include various nodal and protocol attributes of the destination address, i.e., data transmission parameters. Generally, the contents describe where (over which output port) and when (with what priority) to send the packet to the destination address and the nature of any transformations required in the packet header to ensure the packet reaches the destination address. For example, an entry can include a queue ~~identifier,~~ identifier indicating the router output port through which the data must be sent to reach the destination address. Another item in the entry identifies any packet header transformations that are required to satisfy the requirements of the communications medium and the network protocol of the destination address (which may be different than medium and protocol of the source node). A list entry can further include a descriptor of the shortest path from the router to the destination node. At a minimum, information is required for each entry to indicate which headers to prepend

to the packet for transmission on each of the outgoing medium. The linear list does not include a link at each entry; rather the entries are arranged in sequence. The last list entry includes an indicator asserting that the end of the list has been reached.

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 6, and ending on page 4, line 20 should be replaced with the following.

Rather than omitting one network node from each group list, according to another multicast technique, each linear list begins with a different member of the group. See Figure 1 where an "A" multicast group includes seven members, with their addresses indicated by the characters A1 through A7. Each "A" group list begins with a different group member. According to this embodiment, the multicast packet data received at the router includes certain header information from which a an optional skip first flag identifier is derived. The incoming packet is processed through a classification engine, for determining the incoming port and the destination identification from the packet header. Also, the header includes information from which the value (i.e., set or not set) of the skip first flag is determinable. For example, the address in the packet header can specify a multicast packet and the classification engine can be programmed to recognize this address and generate the correct destination addresses and the skip first flag value based thereon.

3